

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00485 191048Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4262
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, LY, PN
SUBJ: TORRIJOS DEPARTS TRIPOLI

REF: TRIPOLI 0467

SUMMARY: TORRIJOS DEPARTS LIBYA WITH FEW SUBSTANTIVE
AGREEMENTS. PANAMANIAN CHIEF OF STATE IDENTIFIES PANAMA
WITH LIBYAN FOREIGN POLICY GOALS. JOINT COMMUNIQUE MARKEDLY
LIBYAN IN TONE AND SUBSTANCE. CULTURAL, TRADE AND ECONOMIC
AGREEMENTS ONLY FRUIT IN TORRIJOS' BASKET. COMMENT:
TORRIJOS NOT THE FIRST TO DEPART LIBYA DISILLUSIONED ABOUT
NIGGARDLY LIBYANS. END SUMMARY.

1. PANAMANIAN CHIEF OF STATE OMAR TORRIJOS DEPARTED LIBYA
APRIL 16 AFTER FIVE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT WHICH SOME
DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS HAVE DESCRIBED AS DISAPPOINTING FOR
THE PANAMANIAN GENERAL. YET, AS EVIDENT FROM HIS ARRIVAL
STATEMENT APRIL 12, TORRIJOS WAS KEEN TO IDENTIFY PANAMA'S
PROBLEMS WITH THOSE OF LIBYA IN THE HOPE OF PERSUADING
QADHAFI TO DIP GENEROUSLY INTO LIBYA'S COFFER. DESPITE
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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 00485 191048Z

QADHAFI'S RESPONSE TO TORRIJOS' WARM WORDS OF PRAISE,
THE LIBYAN CO-
LONEL'S STATEMENT THAT "PANAMA'S FATE IS
LIBYA'S -- IN TRIUMPH OR DEFEAT," APPARENTLY DID NOT
MEAN PANAMA WOULD SHARE LIBYA'S OIL REVENUES. RUMORS
GENERATING FROM TORRIJOS' VISIT CLAIM THAT THE
LIBYANS REFUSED TO LEND TORRIJOS THE 200-250 MILLION

DOLLARS HE REPORTEDLY REQUESTED.

2. WHILE NIGGARDLY WITH THEIR OIL MONEY, THE LIBYANS WERE, NEVERTHELESS, GENEROUS IN THEIR HOSPITALITY TO TORRIJOS WHO WAS FETED AT A LARGE STATE DINNER HOSTED BY EX-PM JALLUD AND ATTENDED BY QADHAFI, ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF ABU BAKR YUNIS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. PRIOR TO THE DINNER, THE PANAMANIAN HEAD OF STATE VISITED BENGHAZI INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS.

3. A JOINT COMMUNIQUE, ISSUED UPON TORRIJOS' DEPARTURE, CONTAINED THE STANDARD RHETORIC FOR SUCH OCCASIONS. IT CONDEMNED IMPERIALISM AND FOREIGN MONOPOLIES AND EXPRESSED SIMILAR REVOLUTIONARY VIEWPOINTS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES OF AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA. THE COMMUNIQUE ALSO CONDEMNED "RACIST ZIONISM" AND "CONTINUED ZIONIST AGGRESSION AGAINST THE ARAB NATIONS." ASIDE FROM CRITICISM OF ISRAEL, LIBYA'S IMPRIMATUR WAS QUITE EVIDENT THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNIQUE. SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PALESTINIANS, OPPOSITION TO COLONIALISM, ADHERENCE TO NON-ALIGNED PRINCIPLES, SUPPORT OF AFRICAN AND LATIN AMERICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, REVISION OF THE U.N. CHARTER (REVOCATION OF VETO) AND NEW ECONOMIC ORDER WERE ALL FAMILIAR THEMES OF THE USUAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE LIBYANS. THE ONLY SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT REACHED BY BOTH PARTIES WAS THE SIGNING OF CULTURAL, TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS. THE TRADE AND ECONOMIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 TRIPOL 00485 191048Z

AGREEMENTS REPORTEDLY INVOLVE A JOINT COMPANY VENTURE AND THE BARTER OF OIL FOR BANANAS.
CARLE

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Message Attributes

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